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Nationalism in the 21st Century: A European and United States Comparison

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**Changing Patterns of Nationalism, Ethnocentrism, and Immigrant
Accommodation in the 21st Century**

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Outline

1. How to define nationalism
2. A supra national union with multiple identities challenged by the nationalism of member states
3. American nationalism as a resource to overcome the divisions of an increasingly polarized society

1

Nationalism as an ideology , a political movement and a basic view of talking thinking and acting

Nationalism and nation state are strictly related

Nationalism is historically specific and its role varies in the different roads to modernity

Nationalism, state society connection and public and private interests

1

The two sources of European nationalism

The three basic dimensions of nationalist projects (the ethnic-genealogical, the cultural, the civic-political) and their different mixes

The ambivalent and controversial relationship between the national principle and the democratic principle

Nationalism can have an instrumental nature

Contemporary challenges to nation-state and nationalism.

2

The European communities and the will to put an end to the 'civil wars' of modern European history

The European Union cannot reproduce the model of nation-state building

Two contradictions of present EU politics:

1. the formation of a supranational union that uses nations as building blocks, but pretends to get rid of the related nationalism

2. the transfer of increasingly growing portions of national sovereignty from the nation-state to the supranational level and the still insufficient transfer of commitment and loyalty from the citizens of the member countries to the evolving supranational community and institutions.

Two possible solutions

3

Is American society becoming more polarized than it used to be?

Huntington's *Who Are We?* and my critique.

The cleavages of immigration, religion, inequality, and their impact on the American middle class and moderate electorate and on the effectiveness of the American government



Conclusion

The global economic crisis, intractable polarization in the US and renationalization in the EU

The different role of nationalism on the two sides of the Atlantic

